

REMARKS

The Examiner's time and cooperation in her interview with Applicant's attorney on May 13, 2008 is, of course, appreciated. This amendment contains a summary of that interview.

The present invention relates to a non-contact device for cleaning and drying a spray gun having a spray tip. The device comprises a housing 1 having a top opening 2 dimensioned to receive the spray tip from the spray gun. A velocity ring is contained within the housing in alignment with the housing top wall opening. A source of pressurized gas is then fluidly connected to the velocity ring 15 so that the velocity ring 15 creates a downdraft through the housing opening 2 and across the spray tip.

Additionally, a spray head block 17 is contained within the housing below the housing opening. A source of solvent is fluidly connected to the spray head block such that the spray head block 17 sprays the solvent on the tip of the spray gun as it passes through the opening 2 and towards the velocity ring 15.

As discussed at the above-mentioned interview, the primary advantage of Applicant's invention is that the velocity ring 15 creates a downdraft through the opening 2 and across the spray tip thus drying the solvent from the spray tip.

The Patent Examiner, however, has rejected the previously submitted claims as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,827,955 to Stern when combined with U.S. Patent No. 6,520,190 to Thompson. New claims 16-22, however, replace old claims 1-15 which have been canceled by this amendment. New claim 16, the only independent claim in this application, now clearly defines the construction of the housing, its opening and the velocity ring positioned below the opening. Claim 16 also clearly defines that the port from the velocity ring is directed away from the opening so that the gas flow from the velocity ring flows away from the housing

top wall opening. This, in turn, inducts gas flow through the top wall opening and across the spray tip of the spray gun in order to dry it.

Neither the Stern patent nor the Thompson et al. patent, however, teach or even suggest the use of a velocity ring to create the downdraft through the housing in the fashion disclosed in the instant application and now positively defined in claim 16. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 patentably defines Applicant's invention over the prior art references of record and is, therefore, allowable. All remaining claims in this application depend from claim 16 and are, therefore, also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for formal allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. However, if the Examiner feels that some additional language is necessary to render claim 16 allowable, the Patent Examiner is urged to call Applicant's attorney at the below listed number.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 07-1180.

Dated: 5/20/08

Respectfully submitted,

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